

Rep. Slaughter co-sponsored legislation that would create a voluntary public financing system for congressional elections that incentivizes small donations. She was disappointed by the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* last January that opened the floodgates for special interests to channel money into American politics. In response, on January 21, 2010, [she signed a letter](#) with many of her colleagues asking Speaker Nancy Pelosi to include the Fair Elections Now Act in any legislation considered as a result of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

On June 24, 2010, the House, with Rep. Slaughter's strong support, passed the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections (DISCLOSE) Act, by a vote of 219-206. The DISCLOSE Act would provide additional information to the public about political advertising funded by corporations, unions, and tax exempt organizations. Corporations, unions, political action committees, and other organizations would be required to "stand by their ad" the same way candidates are currently required to. The Supreme Court has explicitly stated that disclosure requirements "do not prevent anyone from speaking" and further stated that these requirements serve an important role by "providing the electorate with information" about the sources of election-related spending and allowing citizens to "make informed choices in the political marketplace." Rep. Slaughter believes it is imperative that Congress take steps to mitigate the effects of money in politics so that legislators can spend less time raising money and more time assisting constituents and addressing the needs of the nation. The DISCLOSE Act is an important step forward for clean and fair elections.

Rep. Slaughter signed on as an original co-sponsor of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, which would close the "soft money" loophole allowing corporations to give millions of dollars to political parties and candidates. It would also prohibit corporations, unions, and other interest groups from funding "issue advocacy" advertisements in the final weeks before an election.

Rep. Slaughter authored the Fairness in Political Advertising Act, which would reduce the cost of elections and level the playing field by requiring broadcasting stations to provide free political advertising time to qualified candidates in even-numbered years. Candidates would submit unedited segments where they speak directly into the camera. The bill would prohibit the license renewal of television broadcasters that fail to comply with the requirements.

